



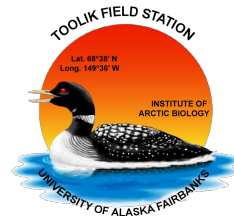
# Toolik Field Station

Steering Committee – January 15, 2025



# 2025 Operations Overview

# What to expect?



- Town Hall - February 28, 2025 @ 10 am AK
- Summer reservations due March 31
- TFS rate increase in 2025 to \$127/night
- Logistics and transportation to operate as in 2024:
  - North and south trucks will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly.
  - Dalton Highway Express will run north on Fridays and south on Saturdays during peak season.
  - Arrival days to the station are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Other arrival days need to be coordinated with the station manager on site.



# COVID



- Pre-departure testing will no longer be required.
- Travelers are encouraged to test and report to TFS Safety if they have COVID symptoms before departure.
  - Those who are confirmed positive will be required to delay their trip.
  - All others with symptoms may be delayed on a case-by-case basis.
- No more mandatory day 5 testing on-station.
  - Residents will still be required to test if they have symptoms after they arrive to TFS.



# COVID



- Travelers will be required to complete a vaccine attestation through their myToolik account to verify that they are up to date with their COVID vaccination(s) per CDC guidance.
  - Those seeking an exemption must contact TFS Safety prior to their reservation.
- Projects are responsible for providing 2 COVID rapid antigen tests per person per reservation for testing at the station, should an individual feel sick.



# COVID



- Should a station resident contract COVID (or present with symptoms of any communicable illness) at Toolik, they will isolate in their room and be monitored until they can be cleared by the on-site EMT.
  - Managers will attempt to relocate roommates, but this may not always be possible depending on the population level.
- Those who have been in close contact with a confirmed COVID case may be subject to additional testing requirements and distancing procedures.



# COVID



Our focus remains one of personal responsibility:

- Travellers should be aware of the risks of COVID during travel and protect themselves as such (i.e., wear a mask during travel, avoid large gatherings).
- Understand that there is always a possibility that COVID could enter Toolik at any time
- Adjust your plans in the week leading up to your scheduled travel date
  - Just because there isn't a quarantine, doesn't mean you shouldn't practice social distancing



# Fairbanks Logistics



- In 2024, the Logistics department:
  - Moved ~2,800 packages come through the Fairbanks office for transport north
  - Launched over 120 vehicles from the Fairbanks garage
- In 2025, we will implement an updated version of the Toolik driver form.
  - Sending to all Toolik users, not just those coming through Fairbanks. This will result in one centralized list of authorized and unauthorized drivers.
- The Logistics SRS forms has been updated for better clarity and should result in less emails with users.
- The Toolik truck fleet is aging:
  - As new vehicles enter our fleet, the older north/south vehicles would normally be left at the station to act as pad trucks. Without replacement fleet vehicles, we will not be able to retire trucks to station, and as the pad trucks age, they will not be replaced.
  - The downtime and maintenance costs of our older fleet trucks are expected to increase. Increased downtime may result in availability issues for north and southbound travel for users.





# Field Courses

- **UAF Climate Scholars - Wildlife Biology**
  - week-long course in late May/early June, led by John Smelter
  - 18 undergrads + 2 instructors
- **Alaska Songbird Institute North for Science**
  - half-day visit to Toolik in early June
  - 8-10 middle schoolers + trip leaders
- **UAF Summer Sessions - Sketching & Science and Science & Sense of Place**
  - Two courses led by Klara Maisch, June 6-20
  - 10 adult students + 2 instructors, each course
- **Alaska Soil Geography**
  - Two overnight stays in late July, led by Sasha Kholodov
  - 18 total students + instructors
- **OSU Upward Bound - Arctic climate change**
  - 5-day field trip, Aug 14-19
  - Funded by Battelle & Dept. of Ed.
  - 12 high school students + 5 instructors/chaperones
- **Lots of interest in courses at Toolik**



Photo by Klara Maisch

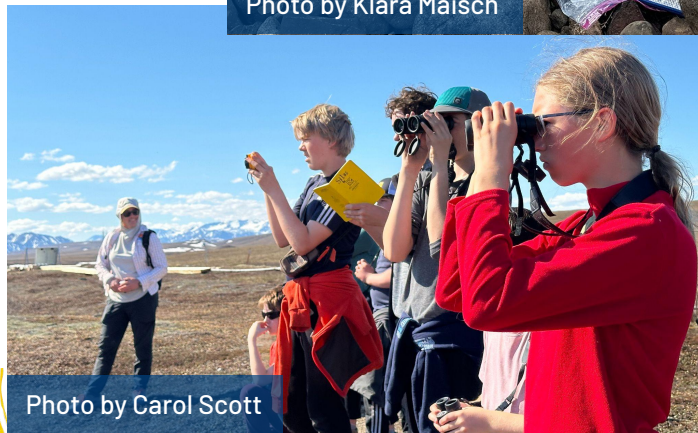
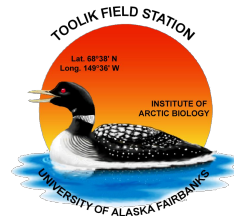


Photo by Carol Scott

# Website & myToolik



- myToolik
  - [Getting Started at Toolik](#)
    - Guide for anyone coming to Toolik to set up their myToolik profile and if they are a PI, their project
  - Future of myToolik
    - Written in php, which needs a significant update this year. Might break the system.
    - Exploring options to work with other field stations on a new system.
- Website
  - [Projects at Toolik](#)
  - Sub-pages such as the [AGU](#) page to highlight posters and presentations at the meeting
  - New [Stories from the Field page](#)



# Spatial & Environmental Data Center



- Normal Operations
  - Remote Access
  - Baseline measurements
  - Field Support
  - Drone & GPS Surveys
  - Site Selections
- Staffing
  - Rachel de Sobrino - GIS & RS Analyst
  - University of Alaska undergraduates in training role in the EDC and GIS
    - Lela Forester and Adam Chavez

